IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-72. (Canceled).

73. (Currently Amended) A multiple access communication method in a network that transmits a USF (Uplink Status Flag) to a mobile station on a downlink slot,

wherein (i) when shifted USF operation is not used then a USF which instructs a mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a first uplink slot is transmitted on a first downlink slot and (ii) when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot is transmitted on a second downlink slot which is different from the first downlink slot.

74. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a second uplink slot is transmitted on the second downlink slot.

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot is different from a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the second uplink slot.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein (i) when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot and all higher numbered uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission is transmitted on the first downlink slot and (ii) when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot and said all higher numbered uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission is transmitted on the second downlink slot.

77. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein the second downlink slot is the next numbered downlink slot of the first downlink slot.

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF

which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the nth (n being an integer) uplink slot and all higher numbered uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission is transmitted on the nth downlink slot.

79. (Currently Amended) A multiple access communication method in a network that transmits a USF to a mobile station on a downlink PDCH (Packet Data Channel),

wherein (i) when shifted USF operation is not used, then a ~~USE~~ USF which instructs a mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a first uplink PDCH is transmitted on a first downlink PDCH and (ii) when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink PDCH is transmitted on a second downlink PDCH which is different from the first downlink PDCH.

80. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a second uplink PDCH is transmitted on the second downlink PDCH.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 80, wherein a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to

perform uplink transmission on the first uplink PDCH is different from a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the second uplink PDCH.

82. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein (i) when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink PDCH and all higher numbered uplink PDCHs assigned for uplink transmission is transmitted on the first downlink PDCH and (ii) when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink PDCH and said all higher numbered uplink PDCHs assigned for uplink transmission is transmitted on the second downlink PDCH.

83. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein the second downlink PDCH is the next numbered downlink PDCH of the first downlink PDCH.

84. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the nth (n being an integer) uplink PDCH and all higher numbered

uplink PDCHs assigned for uplink transmission is transmitted on the nth downlink packet data channel.

85. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein eight consecutive slots form a TDMA frame.

86. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein the mobile station performs transmission on the next transmission frame or consecutive group of transmission frames if the USF is detected.

87. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 85, wherein the start of a TDMA frame on the uplink is delayed by three slots minus a fraction of a slot from the start of a TDMA frame on the downlink.

88. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein the mobile station performs adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception prior to re-configuration from transmission to reception.

89. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 88, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is three slots.

90. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 88, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is one slot.

91. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 88, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is one slot and 31 symbol periods timing advance offset.

92. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein the mobile station performs adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for transmission prior to re-configuration from reception to transmission, and wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for transmission is one slot.

93. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 89, wherein shifted USF operation is used if three slots are allocated for the uplink transmission per one uplink TDMA frame.

94. Previously Presented) The method according to claim 90, wherein shifted USF operation is used if five slots are allocated for the uplink transmission per one uplink TDMA frame.

95. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 91, wherein shifted USF operation is used if five slots are allocated for the uplink transmission per one uplink TDMA frame.

96. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 92, wherein shifted USF operation is used if six slots are allocated for the uplink transmission per one uplink TDMA frame.

97. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 93, wherein an indication indicating the use of shifted USF operation is automatically done.

98. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 94, wherein an indication indicating the use of shifted USF operation is automatically done.

99. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 95, wherein an indication indicating the use of shifted USF operation is automatically done.

100. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 96, wherein an indication indicating the use of shifted USF operation is automatically done.

101. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein a number of multislot class of the mobile station is any one of multislot classes 7, 34, 39 and 45.

102. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein a number of multislot class of the mobile station is any one of multislot classes 7, 34, 39 and 45.

103. (Currently Amended) A network apparatus that transmits a USF to a mobile station on a downlink slot,

wherein (i) when shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs a mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a first uplink slot is transmitted on a first downlink slot and (ii) when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot is transmitted on a second downlink slot <u>which is different from said first downlink slot</u>.

104. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 103, wherein a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a second uplink slot is transmitted on the second downlink slot.

105. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 104, wherein a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot is different from a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the second uplink slot.

106. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 103, wherein (i) when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot and all higher numbered uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission is transmitted on the first downlink slot and (ii) when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission the first uplink slot and said all higher numbered uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission is transmitted on the second downlink slot.

107. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 103, wherein the second downlink slot is the next numbered downlink slot of the first downlink slot.

108. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 103, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the nth (n being an integer) uplink slot and all higher numbered uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission is transmitted on the nth downlink slot.

109. (Currently Amended) A network apparatus that transmits a USF to a mobile station on a downlink PDCH,

wherein (i) when shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs a mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a first uplink PDCH is transmitted on a first downlink PDCH and (ii) when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink PDCH is transmitted on a second downlink PDCH which is different from said first downlink PDCH.

110. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 109, wherein a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform

uplink transmission on a second uplink PDCH is transmitted on the second downlink PDCH.

111. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 110, wherein a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink PDCH is different from a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the second uplink PDCH.

112. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 109, wherein (i) when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink PDCH and all higher numbered uplink PDCHs assigned for uplink transmission is transmitted on the first downlink PDCH and (ii) when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink PDCH and all higher numbered uplink PDCHs assigned for uplink transmission is transmitted on the second downlink PDCH.

113. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 109, wherein the second downlink PDCH is the next numbered downlink PDCH of the first downlink PDCH.

114. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 109, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the nth (n being an integer) uplink PDCH and all higher numbered uplink PDCHs assigned for uplink transmission is transmitted on the nth downlink PDCH.

115. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 103, wherein eight consecutive slots form a TDMA frame.

116. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 103, wherein the mobile station performs transmission on the next transmission frame or consecutive group of transmission frames if the USF is detected.

117. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 115, wherein the start of a TDMA frame on the uplink is delayed by three slots minus a fraction of a slot from the start of a TDMA frame on the downlink.

118. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 103, wherein the mobile station performs adjacent cell signal level

measurement and preparation for reception prior to re-configuration from transmission to reception.

119. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 118, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is three slots.

120. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 118, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is one slot.

121. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 118, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is one slot and 31 symbol periods timing advance offset.

122. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 103, wherein the mobile station performs adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for transmission prior to re-configuration from reception to transmission, and wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for transmission is one slot.

123. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 119, wherein shifted USF operation is used if three slots are allocated for the uplink transmission per one uplink TDMA frame.

124. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 120, wherein shifted USF operation is used if five slots are allocated for the uplink transmission per one uplink TDMA frame.

125. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 121, wherein shifted USF operation is used if five slots are allocated for the uplink transmission per one uplink TDMA frame.

126. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 122, wherein shifted USF operation is used if six slots are allocated for the uplink transmission per one uplink TDMA frame.

127. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 123, wherein an indication indicating the use of shifted USF operation is automatically done.

128. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein an indication indicating the use of shifted USF operation is automatically done.

129. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 125, wherein an indication indicating the use of shifted USF operation is automatically done.

130. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 126, wherein an indication indicating the use of shifted USF operation is automatically done.

131. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 103, wherein a number of multislot class of the mobile station is any one of multislot classes 7, 34, 39 and 45.

132. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claims 109, wherein a number of multislot class of the mobile station is any one of multislot classes 7, 34, 39 and, 45.